

TRICHODA SOL.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Vermis nudo oculo inconspicuus, crinitus.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

TRICHODA globularis undique radiata.

Müll. an. inf. p. 164. t. 23. f. 13. 15.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3889.

Joblot. microsc. 1. p. 2. p. 64. t. 7. f. 15.

Eichorn Zugabe f. 1-7,

Roes. hist. polyp. p. 500. t. 83. f. 2. ♀♀

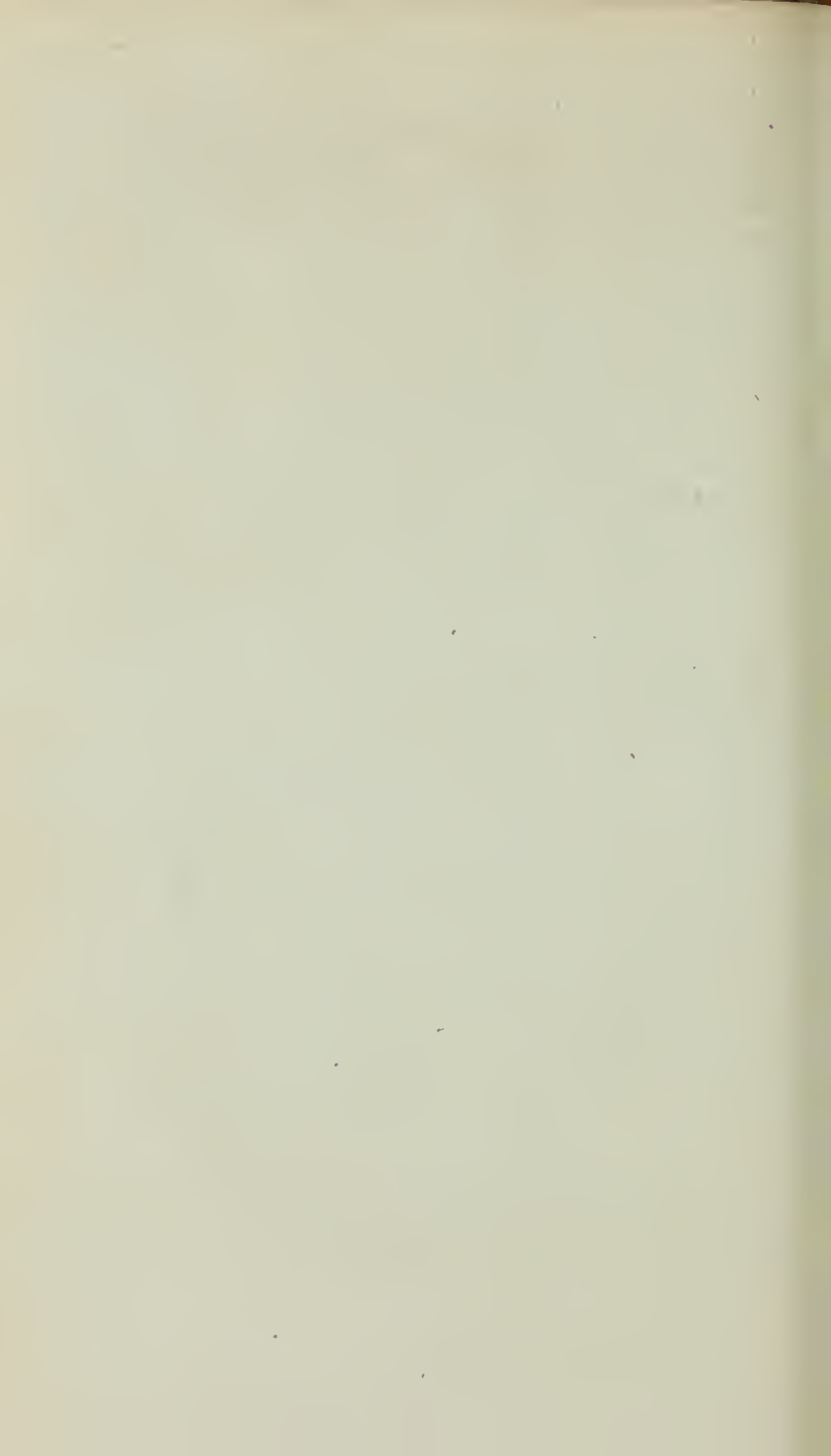
Digna omnino notatu est hujus animalculi indoles et conformatio ; quæ diligentius inspecta non minus mirabitur philosophus quam hydram e divisis sui ipsius partibus plene renatam. Constare videtur totum corpus e massa quasi medullari, homogœna, globosa, radiis seu spinis subpellucidis undique densissime obsita ; oris officio fungente foramine parvulo in centro tuberculi seu papillæ. Torpido et socordi ingenio, dies totos continuos manet sine motu aliquo visibili, nisi quod subobscure contrahatur, si extrinsecus acciderit aliquod irritamentum. Non tamen obstare videtur summa hæc inertia quo

minus monoculos minores prædetur, præcipue parvulum illum cui nomen *Monoculus Pediculus*, qui nonnunquam in ventre repertus est. Verisimile autem est diu manere posse monoculum incolumem, & digestionis (ut loqui solent medici) vi illæsum; e corpore enim *Trichodæ* exemptus, licet multis horis fuerit inclusus, æque celeriter in aquis natare videtur atque solebat antequam in carcerem esset injectus. Si dividatur, vel potius divellatur *Trichoda* Sol acu seu instrumento aliquo idoneo, fragmenta diversa, quamvis primo valde inæqualia, unius vel duarum horarum spatio, formam pristinam sphericam integri animalculi recuperabunt, radiis juxta veram proportionem sitis, et totidem perfecta animalcula e frustulis istius quod divisum fuerit, monstrantibus. Nihil ad hoc experimentum valere videtur acis temperies, quod æque probabitur hyberno ac æstivo tempore. *Trichodæ* Solis magnitudo generalis est quasi apicis aciculæ vulgaris. Color subpellucidus alborem habet quasi margaritæ. Aquas plerumque puriores stagnantes incolit, et stipiti plantulæ alienjus aquaticæ affigitur.

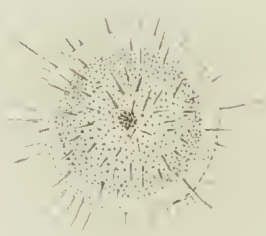
Primo descriptum fuisse videtur hoc animalculum ab Eichorno in opere cui titulus "*Zugabe,*" &c. A Müllero quoque descriptum et depictum est in præcellenti libro de animalculis quæ *Infusoria* dicuntur. In rarioribus habetur, mensibus Februario & Martio præcipue visum. Mense Februario anni millesimi septingentesimi nonagesimi octavi, speciei de qua nunc agitur plura specimina ipse egomet in frustula divulsi, quæ omnia fragmenta citius unius horæ spatio totidem perfecta fiebant animalcula. Ex

Trichodis

Trichodis integris una monoculum pediculum absorpserat, qui simul atque e carcere liberatus, aquas hilariter circumnatabat, illæsus, ut videbatur, et omnis incommodi expers.



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THE
SUN TRICHODA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Animalcule inconspicuous to the naked eye,
beset with hair.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Globular TRICHODA radiated on all sides.

Radiated TRICHODA.

Solar TRICHODA.

The animalcule which forms the subject of the present plate is not more remarkable for the singularity of its form than of its nature, and when accurately examined, will be found to exhibit phenomena equally surprising with the reproduction of the polype.

The whole body appears to consist of an uniform medullary substance, beset on all sides with very numerous transparent diverging rays or prickles, while a small hole in the centre of a papillary protuberance forms the mouth.

It is an animalcule of an extremely inactive nature, and occasionally remains for days together in the same situation, and without any visible motion,
except

except a very obscure contraction on being irritated by any external object.

Notwithstanding this habitual torpidity, it is, apparently, of a predacious nature, and sometimes seizes on and swallows the smaller Monoculi, and especially that very small species the *Monoculus Pediculus* of Linnæus, which is occasionally found in its body. It is probable however that this insect remains a long time uninjured by the digestive powers of the animalcule; since, on opening a *Trichoda* which has thus confined a *Monoculus* for many hours, the insect appears unhurt, and, when liberated, swims about with the same celerity as before its imprisonment.

If the *Trichoda Sol* be divided, or rather torn into several fragments by the point of a needle or other instrument, the several pieces, tho' at first of a very irregular form, will in the space of an hour or two assume the complete spherical figure of the animal before its division; the rays or spines appearing in their true proportion and situation; thus constituting so many distinct animalcules. This experiment seems to be very little influenced by the weather, since in the coldest part of winter it will be found to succeed nearly as well as in the warmer months.

The general size of this curious animalcule is that of a pin's head, and its usual residence is in the clearer kind of stagnant waters, where it commonly attaches itself to the stem or fibres of some of the smaller aquatic plants. Its color is a semitransparent pearly white. It appears to have been first described

scribed by Eichorn in his work entitled "*Zugabe*" &c. Mr. Müller has also described and figured it in his excellent work on the *Animalcula Infusoria*. It is numbered among the rarer animalcules, and is chiefly to be found in the months of February and March.

In February 1798 I divided several of these animalcules in the manner above described; the respective fragments of each of which, in less than an hour's space, assumed their complete form. One specimen, before dilaceration, had enclosed a *Monoculus*, which was no sooner liberated than it swam about, apparently uninjured by its captor.